

The stars are out of service.....until further notice [Part One]

The stars will be out of service until further notice ...those same stars that have shone so brightly for millennia are now OUT OF SERVICE until further notice.

The same stars that guided generations of voyagers throughout the many many islands of the Pacific, the same stars that became a canvas that literally came to life with the many amazing and fantastic stories of the ancients from peoples the world over from every river bend and mountain, the same stars that were imbued with divine narratives, the same stars that were portals to our ancestral legacies, those same stars are now out of service.... and they are out of service until further notice.

A new brighter, noisier, human-made light has now just about completely taken over. It started as a faint glimmer about three hundred years ago and now it is so bright that you can no longer see the stars at night. The stars are indeed out of service. If you don't believe me, go outside at night out onto the street and try and look at the stars. The noisier light at the top of a post makes it difficult to see the stars. A strategically placed hand momentarily blocks out the noise to allow a brief glimpse of the stars. Though the stars have not disappeared and they are still there, but they are out of service... until further notice.

When this new light first started out it was dim – not many people listened to it. It tried to tell us to break everything into small parts. It tried to tell us that our head can be separated from our body. It tried to measure everything from the distance between one point to another, from one period in time to another. It started to count everything from people, to mountains, to trees, to animals. Later it gave names to animals – not that animals cared much for these names. It tried to tell us what animals were related to other animals. It tried to collect samples of animals and people and put them in jars of fluid with name tags, or stuffed them, to hang on walls and look at, in stuffy big buildings we call museums and laboratories. Then it started to write pages and pages about these things it had measured, cut up, dissected, molested and interfered with. Now these pages turned into books, the books got bigger and bigger, more and more, there were just about as many books as there were stars.

When this light started out, not many people knew about this light, that's why they couldn't, wouldn't, didn't see it. Its numbers, molecules, neutrons, scapulas, velocities and voluminous new multi-syllabic, tongue hurting words and ideas just didn't run true to a simple feeling that we used to get in our stomachs. This gut feeling, was an intuition, the result of an invocation or meditation that we could not explain in the language of the new light, but had served us so well. This new man-made light also did not fit with the many other lights that had guided us reliably for so long. Maui, God, Wakan Tanka, Nyame, Allah,

YHWH (yo hey wah hey), Bhudda, Krishna, Tu, Tagaloa, Tao – there are as many names for these different lights as there were stars.

However, as time went by, people started listening to this man-made light. That light started making life a little easier, a little more comfortable. Instead of chopping wood to light the fire on a hot day to cook, we just had to turn a switch. It created medicines that would help people recover from illnesses that previously people either endured or died from. Instead of spending hours either walking or riding horseback we could get in a car and travel there in no time at all. Things started to get easier and easier, faster and faster. And as we accepted that man-made light into our heads it started to get noisier and noisier and the stories that the stars used to show us, grew dimmer against this ever increasing noisy light.

So noisy is this light that we now truly believe we can separate our head from our body! Don't just take my word for it. Think about the last time you were confronted with a difficult, complex, high stakes, problem that involved someone or something you cared about, did you not ask yourself, "am I thinking with my heart or my head?" We truly believe when we think we do so with either our heart or our head, not both, it is as if our heads are completely separate from our bodies! The separation or should I say decapitation is now complete....at least in our minds...

Now this noisy light has given us just about everything we needed, wanted, desired. It could even tell us what we needed, wanted, desired. Those that study the genealogies of words tell us that the meaning of desire comes from the idea of "waiting to see what the stars will bring". With this new man-made noisy light wants and desires have collapsed into needs, and desires have become, well, less desirable and there is no need to wait for what the stars bring.

The stars have not disappeared, they are still there, and they will shine again, but for now the stars are out of service....until further notice.

G.W. Cooper

March 2014